

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A telescopic construction comprising:

an outer member;

an inner member slidably fitting in the outer member; and

a shear ring mounted on at least either an inner circumferential surface of the outer member or an outer circumferential surface of the inner member, the shearing ring comprising a metallic ring and a resin ring made of synthetic resin,

wherein the metallic ring fits on one of an outer circumferential side and an inner circumferential side of the resin ring,

wherein a shear permissive projection is provided on the shear ring,

wherein a groove is provided in at least either the inner circumferential surface of the outer member or the outer circumferential surface of the inner member; and

wherein the shear permissive projection is in engagement with the groove.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): The telescopic construction as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the shear ring is divided in a circumferential direction thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An automotive steering column apparatus comprising:

- an inner column rotatably supporting a steering shaft;
- an outer column holding the inner column while rotatably embracing the inner column;
- a vehicle body side bracket having a vehicle body mount portion which can be mounted on a vehicle body and a pair of left and right facing flat plate portions which extend substantially vertically ~~and disposed in such a manner as to surround the outer column~~ on opposite sides of the outer column, respectively;

- a clamping mechanism for changing a width of the pair of facing flat plate portions and changing a width of an inner circumferential surface of the outer column in connection with a change in the width of the pair of facing flat portions; and

- a shear ring mounted on at least either the inner circumferential surface of the outer column or an outer circumferential surface of the inner column, the shearing ring comprising a metallic ring and a resin ring made of synthetic resin,

- wherein the metallic ring fits on one of an outer circumferential side and an inner circumferential side of the resin ring,

- wherein a shear permissive projection is provided on the shear ring,

- wherein a groove is formed in at least either the inner circumferential surface of the outer column or the outer circumferential surface of the inner column, and

- wherein the shear permissive projection is in engagement with the groove.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (original): The automotive steering column apparatus as set forth in Claim 4,
wherein the shear ring is divided in a circumferential direction thereof.